Fencing at Indo-Bangladesh Border

360. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HOMEAFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fencing on India's border with Bangladesh is currently being undertaken;

(b) if so, the details of the project and its status so far;

(c) whether Government have received any objections to fencing from the Government of Bangladesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to resolve the objections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOMEAFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has sanctioned construction of 3286 kms. of fence along Indo-Bangladesh border. Out of this 2129 kms. has been erected till 31st January, 2006.

(c) to (e) The Bangladesh Rifles has been objecting construction of border fence within 150 yards of the international border on the plea that construction of fence is a defensive structure. Secondly, it violates provisbns of Joint Indo-Bangladesh Guidelines for Border Authorities-1975. The Government of India has been trying persistently to convince Bangladesh Government that the erection of border fence does not violate the Joint Indo-Bangladesh Guidelines for Border Authorities-1975 as the border fence is mutually beneficial for both the countries in curbing trans-border crimes.

Pension to widows of freedom fighters

361. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOMEAFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the pension is not being given to widows of freedom fighters in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) the number of proposals received from the State of Andhra Pradesh especially for giving pension to the widows of freedom fighters;